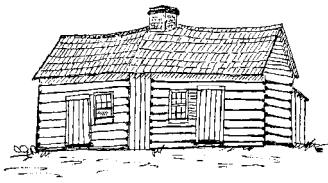
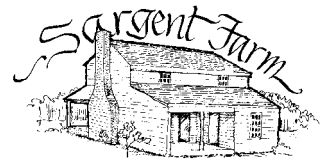

❖ Gooseneast Prairie Gazette ❖



Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site



Volunteer Pioneers—Lincoln/Sargent Farm Foundation

Summer, 2008



Dee Stanford and participants in the Summer Youth program helped to bring in the Lincoln's wheat crop this year.

In the 19th century the timely harvesting of grains such as wheat and oats were crucial for the farm family. Because the window of opportunity for harvesting these grains was often small, the whole family may participate in the harvest as demonstrated by our interpreters.

Goings On at Lincoln Log Cabin

Lincoln Log Cabin has had a busy spring and early summer this year. We officially kicked off our interpretive season the first week-end in May with a 19th century Militia Muster followed by the popular Sheep-to-Clothing event where we explored the process of turning raw materials, ie wool, into a finished garment. Each of these popular programs added to our usual visitor count and gave us a total of a little over 10,000 visitors for the month of May.

Through our many special events

throughout the year, Lincoln Log Cabin strives to create both educational and entertainment opportunities designed to create for return visits throughout the year. The Lincoln/Sargent Farm Foundation is also committed to supporting the site's educational goals and has sponsored the Visiting Artisan Program this year. We have already had programs by gunsmith Pappy Horne, felter and hat maker, Scott Whitehouse, and broom maker, David Tomlin. Upcoming artisans include a 19th century photographer on August the 9th and 10th and a 19th century physician on August 30th and 31st. In addition to these activities, the annual Bluegrass Jam occurs this year on Sunday, August 10th from 11 am to 5 pm.

With the aid of our seasonal maintenance staff, the site is working this summer to accomplish some much needed repairs to the historical farms. We have constructed a new hog lot across the creek from the Lincoln's. This new enclosure will allow us to address the severe erosion problem to the hillside adjacent to the cabin where the hogs used to reside. It will also help us protect our Lincoln archaeological heritage. When the hogs were in residence by the cabin, they unearthed and disturbed many Lincoln era artifacts while they rooted around in the soil.

Take the opportunity for a return visit this summer and see what we've got going on!

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

The Lincoln\Sargent Farm Foundation and Lincoln Log Cabin spearheaded efforts to form a Coles County Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee this past winter. One of the early fruits of that endeavor will be the upcoming unveiling of *Looking for Lincoln* wayside exhibits in Coles County. In the first phase, they will be installed this summer in Mattoon, Charleston, Oakland and at the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery in rural Lerna.

Each exhibit tells a unique story of Abraham Lincoln in Coles County: the Mattson slave trial, Lincoln's last visit to Coles County, the story of Thomas Lincoln's grave, the political rallies after the 1858 debates between Lincoln and Douglas and Lincoln's legal practice in Coles County. Plans are currently underway to add additional wayside exhibits next year.

The official kick-off of Lincoln Bicentennial events will begin this fall with the 150th anniversary

of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the fairgrounds in Charleston. It will be a day-long celebration featuring arts past and present along with a special program at 2:00 featuring Lincoln and Douglas. The candidates will also be on hand throughout the day in their campaign tents to engage visitors. Lincoln Log Cabin has also partnered with EIU's Academy of Lifetime Learning to offer the program *Abraham Lincoln in Song* by Chris Vallillo on January 14th, and on February 12th the site will host special Living History demonstrations and children's story times and activities in honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday.

The Charleston Community Theatre has also joined in the Coles County observances by putting on the one man show "Two Pennies a Mile" by Ed Trotta which explores how Lincoln may have viewed the various tributes and memorials to him. Lincoln Log Cabin's Volunteer group is

also planning to present excerpts from the book *Herndon's Informants*, in which Lincoln's Coles County family members and acquaintances reminisce about Abraham Lincoln. Watch for other upcoming announcements and final dates for these programs.



Local Boy Scout Kyle Daubs and fellow troop members performed a community service project at the site this spring replacing the mulch at one of our playgrounds.



A Horned Dorset ewe and her lamb.

Ongoing Research Project at Lincoln Log Cabin

In order to better serve visitors to Lincoln Log Cabin, we are currently conducting a comprehensive survey of visitors to the site. With the help of Marian Wooten, from the Recreation Administration Program at EIU, a survey has been designed to track visitors expectations of the site pre-visit, and their thoughts and comments on the current programs after their

visit. By compiling this research we hope to provide for a better educational, and more fulfilling visit for the public.

The focus of the post-visit portion of the survey will help us by pinpointing where the visitor learns, and what interpretive methods appeal to them. Watch for the upcoming results.

~The new *Living History Program Interpreter's Handbook* is available for all Lincoln Log Cabin Seasonal Interpreters and Volunteers.

This hand-held guide was designed to inform and teach interpreters about living history interpretation and some of the daily chores and skills necessary to rural Illinois families during the 19th century. It's also a quick reference guide for information relating to the Lincoln and Sargent families and Abraham Lincoln in Coles County.

If you haven't received your copy stop by the office to pick one up.

Intern/Graduate Assistant News

Matt Cassady, our former Eastern Illinois University intern and graduate assistant, left us this past spring and headed for St. Paul, MN where he is currently working as a seasonal interpreter for the Minnesota Historical Society at Historic Ft. Snelling. He is enjoying his new job and tells us that he occasionally gets to fire the fort's cannon and was even allowed to play the drum in their military parade!



Matt Cassady interpreting at historic Ft. Snelling, MN.

Sharie Mooney, who preceded Matt as an intern has been employed at Trail End State Historic Site in Cody Wyoming for the past two years. She just sent word that she is engaged, congratulations Sharie and Todd.

Our newest graduate assistant is Katherine Nowack. Kitty is studying at EIU in the Historical Administration program this fall and will be working with the site and the Lincoln\Sargent Farm

Foundation's education programs. This summer, you'll find her out on the farms leading the Summer Youth Program with former youth volunteer, and graduate of our Summer Youth Program, Mark Stanford.



Above~ Soldiers on parade at Ft. Snelling, MN.

Below~ Kitty Nowack



Scenes From Our Summer Wheat Harvest



It is very important, and very difficult, to furnish young children with sufficient employment. What we call a natural love of mischief, is in fact nothing but activity. Children are restless for employment; they must have something to do; and if they are not furnished with what is useful or innocent, they will do mischief...It is a good plan to teach little girls to knit, to weave bobbin, watchgards, chains &c. — Lydia Marie Child, *The Mother's Book*, 1831.

Lincoln Log Cabin

State Historic Site

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Upcoming Events at Lincoln Log Cabin

~**Mattoon Baglefest Parade:** 10:00 am Saturday, July 19th. Volunteers need to meet at the County Market parking lot nlt 9:45 am.

~**Visiting Artisan Series:** Broom Making July 19th and 20th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

~**Volunteer Pitch-In:** Thursday, July 24th, 6:00 pm At Lincoln Log Cabin.

~**Coles County Fair:** July 26th through Aug 2nd. Volunteers are needed to man the Booth at the fair during the evenings. To sign up call 345-1845.

~**Visiting Artisan Series:** Itinerant Photographer August 9th and 10th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

~**Bluegrass Jam:** Sunday, August 10th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

~**Lincoln\Sargent Farm Foundation Board Meeting:** Tuesday, August 19th 7:15 am at Lincoln Log Cabin.

~**Volunteer Pitch-In:** Thursday, August 28th, 6:00 pm At Lincoln Log Cabin.

~**Visiting Artisan Series:** Visiting Physician, 19th century Medicine August 30th and 31st from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

~**Lincoln-Douglas Debate Sesquicentennial:** Saturday, September 20th at the Coles County fairgrounds. Watch for further updates.



Right: Former intern Matt Cassady shearing sheep.